



December 2022

Thoughts in Print - from Pastor Sue

How in the world is it December already?!?! And with the beginning of a New Year in our Church Calendar this last weekend, the Advent countdown to Christmas is in full swing. One of my favorite devotional resources, d365.org, began the season with these words: *"Hope is the assurance of God's faithfulness – period."* In all the years since Jesus death and resurrection, this simple statement encapsulates much of what faith is all about. It reminds me of one of the most basic yet profound verses in all of scripture. Hebrews 11:1 - *"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."* As we once again live into this very special season, are we keeping it simple? Are we allowing space for the Spirit to fan the spark of faith into a flame to warm us not only in these cold winter months but when the coldness of life sometimes tries to take hold of us; to drag us away from our faith; from our hope. Notice how the word "assurance" is used on both these statements. A word that can be defined as "a positive declaration intended to give confidence; a promise." Bottom line, Advent comes each year to remind us of the fulfillment of God's promises to us embodied in the baby Jesus - period. It is in this gift that we have the confidence that our faith is not in vain. As we continue through this season, I pray that each of us may be reminded in great and small ways of the hope, love, joy, and peace that we have in Jesus.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

Pastor Sue



Our Church's Anniversary



60th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, December 11, 2022

Sunday Worship at 10:00 am
with Bishop Bartholomew,
followed by a luncheon
at the Clarion Hotel
(from noon to 4:00 pm)

Cost is \$30 per person
(5–12 years old, \$15 / Under 5, free)

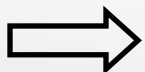
Reservations and prepayment are required!



LAST CHANCE

Help celebrate our
Anniversary!

Do you have any
photos from events, people, ac-
tivities or celebrations from years
gone by? Send them to the 60th
Anniversary Committee at:
holycrossis60@gmail.com



**THERE WILL BE NO WORSHIP SERVICE
ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10TH.**



**PLEASE JOIN US SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 11th AT 10:00 FOR A SPECIAL SERVICE
HONORING OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY (NO ADULT BIBLE STUDY ON SUNDAY.)**



*Keep the following people in your prayers
(long-term illnesses)*

Cindy Williams, Eddie Mayer, Leah Morgan, Valerie Horlacher, Maie Currie, Frank Lukasavage, Barbara Carlson, Paul Stenzel, Dee Barbara, Karen Ryan, Kristine Schley

Holy Cross Winter Blood Drive

Saturday, January 14th, 2023

8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

1st United Methodist Church

Old Freehold Road and Chestnut Street.



Please sign up at redcrossblood.org. If you plan to donate at this drive, don't donate anywhere else before it. We thank 1st United Methodist Church for offering the use of their facility for our drive! Please contact Eric at 732 255 1023 with any questions or to help out with the drive.



Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 29, 2022

Immediately following the
10:00 service.



Do you like to sing but can't commit full-time to the Sanctuary Choir? Come join the "augmented" choir for Advent, 60th Anniversary and Christmas. Rehearsals are Thursdays at 7:30. See Jean Heidorn for more information.

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POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Deadline for listing in Christmas Eve bulletin is Sunday, December 18th.
Poinsettias are \$8.00 each.

Your name:

(please print clearly)

of plants ordered: _____

Amount due: \$ _____

PLANT(S) DEDICATION: (please print clearly)

_____ To the Glory of God

_____ In Memory of Loved Ones: _____

_____ Special dedication: _____

Please place this form, with payment, in the offering plate, or send to the office. Thank you.

Christmas Worship Services

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm

*Family Service
with Holy Communion*

7:00 pm

*Traditional Candlelight Service
with Holy Communion
(choirs at this service only)*

9:00 pm

*Traditional Candlelight Service
with Holy Communion
(no choirs at this service)*



Christmas Day

10:00 am *Worship Service
with Holy Communion*

NO SERVICE ON New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31

*NEW YEAR'S DAY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 1
10:00 am - FaceBook Live only (no in-person)*



We need ushers for Christmas Eve services.
Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board.

Annual Gift Collection

Holy Cross is collecting new, unwrapped Christmas gifts that will be distributed to the children of families who have been assisted by The HOPE Center. Please bring in your new, unwrapped gifts and place in the box in the narthex. (The last day to bring in gifts is Sunday, December 4th.) Thank you!





From the "Prez"

Thank you each and everyone for your love, support and generosity to Holy Cross this past year! I want to keep you informed on some recent happenings at Holy Cross.

Pastor Sue and Sipe Adjustment Group have been dealing with our insurance company since the first week of the Parish Center (PC) fire. We are heading for a finalization. Once we have accepted the offer, our Rebuilding Team will meet, will produce different scenarios on the PC and present them at a special congregation meeting.

We have been approved for a trailer on the great lawn. That also took a lot of work between the insurance company, Pastor, Sipe and the township. Look for the trailer in the next few weeks. We will use that for Sunday Church School, Confirmation class and meeting space.

Your Council has been hard at work getting our ministries up and running since Covid and the fire. Our hands had been tied due to Covid restrictions and the loss of the PC but there are many highlights:

Community Outreach, in conjunction with Christ Episcopal Church and Plentiful Plates, prepared and distributed 170+ dinners for Thanksgiving - several dinners went to the homeless.

Discipleship had a table at National Night out in Huddy Park in August, Hope Shed's Light BBQ and their annual walk in Seaside. The table has information on the church and our Nursery School, giveaways, and games for the youngsters.

Fellowship is hard at work coordinating the 60th Anniversary Dinner. They also sponsored a New Member Luncheon with another one planned for sometime in the Spring. Ideas for a bus trip and a BBQ and various other fellowship events are in the works.

Family Faith Formation started Sunday Church School in September, Confirmation began its 2 year program in October, First Holy Communion has always been active and will begin a new class in the Spring of 2023. Future youth activities are being planned and we are looking forward to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in 2024. In October there was a Halloween party for our Splash (ages 0 to 5) families with twenty-four attending.

Property is busy making repairs to the building inside and out.

Finance Team is almost done with a budget for 2024.

Executive Committee meets once a month.

Worship and Music Committee has new members, and there are new Worship Assistants, Ushers and Altar Guild members. They work extremely hard to make sure every thing is ready for Worship; the church is decorated for Advent, Christmas, and Easter. A decision was made to get rid of the choir robes and they are now gone. The closet is now being used for Altar Guild as their shed outside needs to be torn down. A huge Thank You to Jean Heidorn and Carol Capor for all their hard work with Anthems and Handbells.

The Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month, and anyone is welcome, but you must call me or Kenn Kerr (VP) to let us know you are coming and what you would like to discuss. We meet at the church except for our December meeting which is off-site.

Submitted by Janis Provost, Council President

2022 Who's Who on Council

Pastor Susan Jones

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President, Janis Provost

janis1455@aol.com

VP, Kenn Kerr

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Secretary, Pam Walter

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Treasurer, John Kane

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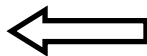
Lyndsay.tricarico@gmail.com



Dec. 6	Confirmation Class 5:00 PM
Dec. 11	60th Anniversary Luncheon Noon
Dec. 13	Council 6:30 PM
Dec. 20	Confirmation Class 5:00 PM
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Services 4:00, 7:00, 9:00 PM

Faith Formation Coordinator Position -

Council has approved the hiring of a Faith Formation Coordinator to assist in the *administrative, clerical and communication coordination* of our learning ministries, with particular focus on our programs with children and youth. The position will begin at 12 hours per week and \$15.00/hour. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Sue, sjones@holycrosstr.com, or Janis Provost, janis1455@aol.com.



To make an electronic donation using your phone, just scan the QR code.



Have a Merry and Blessed Christmas and a VERY healthy New Year.

The office will be closed on
Monday, December 26th
and
Monday, January 2nd.

Coffee hour - do you like to drink coffee? Good! We need people to help out with coffee hours. Coffee hour supplies will be provided. Sign-up on the bulletin board or talk to Diane McCabe.



Church Office: P (732) 255-4455
Christian Preschool & Day Care: (732) 255-3112
info@holycrosstr.com
www.HolyCrossLutheranNJ.com
www.facebook.com/holycrosstr
Twitter - @HolyCrossTR

Worship Services:
Saturday, 5:00 pm
Sunday, 10:00 am (and Facebook Live)

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday, 9:00 - 2:00